DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/18/08 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4,6,15,17,20,21,25,27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 3346222 to Cech in view of US Patent 5110660 to Wolf et al. and WO-0173492 (using US Patent 6942396 to Marion et al. as an English equivalent).

Re: claims1-4,6,15,17,20,21,25,27 and 29. Cech shows in figure 1 a multi-axis shock and vibration isolator comprising a body 3 having a top end and a bottom end, the body made of an elastomeric material for attenuating vibration at a first frequency along a vertical axis that passes through the top and bottom ends, and a cavity 2 having a perimeter and a bottom surface shown adjacent to the bottom of element 1 extending diametrically within the perimeter and forming an outer surface of the top end and having an opening opposite the bottom surface for receiving an electronic component.

Cech lacks the limitation of a first hole extending through the body between the top and bottom ends, a second hole extending through the body between the top and bottom ends, the second hole intersecting the first hole, the first and second holes being sized and shaped for attenuating vibration at a second frequency along a lateral axis that is perpendicular to the vertical axis.

Wolf et al. teach in figure 3 the limitation of a multi-axis shock and vibration isolator comprising a body 1 with a first hole 6 extending through the body between the top and bottom ends, a second hole 6 positioned two holes away in the circumferential direction extending through the body between the top and bottom ends, the second hole intersecting the first hole, the first and second holes being sized and shaped for attenuating vibration at a second frequency along a lateral axis that is perpendicular to the vertical axis.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the body of the isolator of Cech to have included a first and second hole, as taught by Wolf et al., in order to provide a means of adjusting the damping characteristics of the isolator depending on the application in which the isolator is to be used.

Cech, as modified, lacks the limitation of the electronic component being bonded to the bottom surface of the cavity and also lacks the limitation of all vibration above 1.4 times the resonant frequency being attenuated.

Marion et al. teach in figure 10 the use of a component being bonded to the bottom surface of a cavity with the use of an adhesive 42.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the attachment of the electronic component within the cavity of Cech, as modified, to have been bonded to the bottom surface of the cavity, as taught by Marion et al., in order to provide a means of securely attaching the component to the device to avoid disconnection.

Also with respect to the 1.4 times the resonant frequency and the about 2.5 mm limitations, Examiner notes that "[w]here the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation." *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melody M. Burch whose telephone number is 571-272-7114. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (6:30 AM-3:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Siconolfi can be reached on 571-272-7124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

mmb
April 14, 2008

/Melody M. Burch/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3683